

**MEETING OF  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON WATER INFORMATION'S (ACWI'S)  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HYDROLOGY (SOH)**

**9:00 am – 1:00 PM (EST)**

**April 12, 2007**

*Rm. 3M-3, FERC Building  
888 First Street, NE, Washington, DC 20426*

**AGENDA**

(Breaks as appropriate)

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Review and Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes from January 11, 2007 Meeting
4. Status of Action Items from January 11, 2007 Meeting
5. Presentation of “**Information Quality Act**” by Margo Schwab, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
6. “**Overview of CUAHSI Hydrologic Information System (HIS)**” by Professor David Maidment (30-45 presentation followed by discussion for about 1.5 hrs in total; discussing possible interactions between SOH and CUAHSI HIS as a way to accomplish SOH’s function of “water information management and sharing”)
7. Update on Hydrologic Modeling Working Group
8. Update on Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Working Group
9. Update on Satellite Telemetry Interagency Working Group
10. Proposed Hydrologic GIS Applications Working Group
11. Current Events within Hydrologic Communities  
(Including “National Academy's Disasters Roundtable” by Gene Stallings)
12. Announcements and Q&A on Business Reports from Member Organizations  
(Including “The SOH CONNECTIONS” Newsletter editor’s report)
13. Plans for Next Meeting
14. Other Items

*Adjournment*

**SUMMARY OF MEETING**  
(Prepared by Stephen Blanchard, USGS)

**PARTICIPANTS**

Glenn Austin	National Weather Service (NWS)
Martin Becker	Defenders of Property Rights (DPR)
Stephen Blanchard	Geological Survey (USGS)
Ted Engman	National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA)
Don Frevert	Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Tom Graziano	National Weather Service (NWS)
Mary Greene	Office of Surface Mining (OSM)
Claudia Hoefl	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ( <i>by phone</i> )
Rick Hooper	Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences (CUAHSI)
Charles Job	Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Samuel Lin	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
David Maidment	University of Texas and CUAHSI
William Merkel	Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) ( <i>by phone</i> )
Thomas Nicholson	Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
Margo Schwab	Office of Management and Budget (OMB)
Eugene Stallings	National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC)
Jean Thomas	Forest Service (USFS)
Will Thomas	Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM)
Jerry Webb	Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
David Wells	Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)
Don Woodward	American Forests ( <i>by phone</i> )
Bonnie Wyatt	Forest Service (USFS)
Max Yuan	Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

## **Meeting Highlights**

Sam Lin called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM (EST).

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

Sam Lin welcomed everyone to the meeting. Each person introduced themselves and their organizational affiliation. A total of 23 individuals participated, with 3 of the 23 participating by phone.

### **2. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The meeting agenda was approved as listed above.

### **3. Approval of Minutes from 1-11-07 meeting**

The 1-11-07 meeting minutes were approved.

### **4. Status of Action Items from January 11, 2007 Meeting**

**Action:** Steve Blanchard will contact David Maidment to invite him to the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Steve Blanchard will offer the possibility of the SOH helping with the development of the HIS by providing information about and access to relevant water data, providing reviews of HIS proposals and plans, and facilitating the development of the HIS through the SOH agency and organizational contacts.

*This action is complete; Dr Maidment attended this meeting.*

**Action:** Don Frevert will send out a reminder to the subcommittee members by February 16<sup>th</sup> requesting submissions to the next newsletter.

*This action is complete.*

**Action:** Subcommittee members will send contributions to Don Frevert, Mary Greene, and Sam Lin by February 23rd.

*This action is complete.*

**Action:** Subcommittee members will provide comments and suggestions to Don Frevert, Mary Greene, and Sam Lin regarding the content, format and other facets of the newsletter by February 23rd.

*This action is complete.*

**Action:** Don Frevert and Mary Greene will send out the next issue of the newsletter by about March 15th.

*This action is complete; the Newsletter was distributed on March 22, 2007.*

### **5. Presentation of “Information Quality Act “by Margo Schwab, Office of Management and Budget (OMB)**

Margo Schwab presented an overview of the Information Quality Act (IQA). OMB policy does not allow for Margo to provide a copy of her Powerpoint presentation and so a copy is not attached to these minutes. The IQA was developed to improve the scientific basis for government

regulations. OMB set up general guidance for the whole federal government and each agency then had to set up their own guidance for data quality. Agencies developed their own procedures for pre-release review of the materials. Agencies also had to establish a mechanism for the public to request corrections be made to the materials. When a member of the public submits a request for a correction, it is the responsibility of the member of the public to show what is in error and why it needs to be corrected. OMB issued a final IQA Bulletin on Peer Review that is available from the OMB web sites at URL: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/memoranda/fy2005/m05-03.pdf>. The bulletin describes what should be done in the peer review process. OMB has made a lot of information about the IQA initiative available from their web sites at URL: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/inforeg/infopoltech.html#iq>. OMB believes their role is to collaborate with agencies to implement this act.

## **6. “Overview of CUAHSI Hydrologic Information System (HIS)” by Professor David Maidment**

The Subcommittee on Hydrology invited Dr. David Maidment (Univ. of Texas) to the meeting to make a presentation on the Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc (CUAHSI) Hydrologic Information System (HIS). The Subcommittee is exploring the collaborating with CUAHSI to help facilitate HIS as a means of accomplishing the Subcommittee function from the Terms of Reference to: *“Information management and sharing--Create links among information systems to support easy access and to share precipitation, streamflow, and other related data. Adopt common terminology and definitions for documenting surface-water data. Establish a mechanism that uses modern information technology to make data available to all interested parties.”*

Dr Maidment gave an overview of HIS using a PowerPoint presentation; the presentation is provided as an attachment to the minutes. There was much discussion about possible ways for the SOH to collaborate and facilitate HIS. Potential areas for collaboration included:

- SOH members serving as points of contacts for their organizations data,
- SOH members serving as a source of review and feedback for HIS proposals, plans, and activities,
- Working together to further develop XML schema and protocols,
- Working together on the development of web services,
- SOH organizations implementing HIS servers,
- Contributing to the development of a “Handbook on Hydrologic Data,” and
- Working together to help develop guidelines and standards for data quality for information entered into HIS

**Decision:** There was unanimous agreement that the SOH would establish a working group to further explore collaboration with CUAHSI for the implementation of HIS and to formalize the way the SOH will work with CUAHSI.

**Action:** Steve Blanchard would take the lead on developing a working group for the purpose of collaborating with CUAHSI. The development of the working group needs to consider relationships within ACWI with the Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data and the new Subcommittee on Ground Water. A proposal for the working group would be brought back to the next meeting for consideration.

## **7. Update on Hydrologic Modeling Working Group**

Don Frevert reported that the workgroup had to abort its March 22<sup>nd</sup> conference call due to a bad password. The conference was rescheduled for Tuesday morning May 1st. Priorities for the call are to finalize the workgroup's agreement on the draft terms of reference and to select a chair and vice-chair.

The proceedings of the 1993 Workshop on Hydrologic Modeling Demands for the 1990's and the 1998, 2002 and 2006 Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conferences have been scanned and put on a disk. The next step will be to make the proceedings web-ready and then provide a link from the SOH website. The process is on hold due to the illness of one of the technicians, but it is hoped the work will be completed by the next SOH meeting.

The site selection group for the 2010 Joint Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling and Sedimentation Conference will meet May 7th in Denver. The group is composed of Doug Glysson, Paula Makar, Jerry Bernard, and Don Frevert. The group will develop a short list of locations and visit each. A recommendation for a site will probably be made within the next year.

## **8. Update on Hydrologic Frequency Analysis Working Group**

Will Thomas reported that USGS has completed the Fortran programming for the new Expected Moments Algorithm (EMA) routines and are in the process of incorporating these changes into the production version of the computer program PEAKFQ. Version 5.1 of PEAKFQ with the updated EMA routines should be available in a couple of months. Tim Cohn, USGS, reported that he had provided the Fortran routines to John England, USBR. John reported that he will be incorporating the new EMA routines into the Bureau of Reclamation program that implements EMA and will begin the Bulletin 17B testing in a few weeks. John and Tim indicated that they would make sure that the USGS program (PEAKFQ) and the Bureau of Reclamation program are getting the same results. Will reported that he and a colleague at Baker are analyzing the annual peak data for the 80 long-term gaging stations using existing Bulletin 17B procedures. The purpose is to define thresholds for low and high outliers and historic data and determine historic periods that will be needed for the Bulletin 17B - EMA comparisons.

## **9. Update on Satellite Telemetry Interagency Working Group**

Bonnie Wyatt (Forest Service) is the new chair of STIWG replacing Charles Kazimir (BLM) who is rotating off as chair. The STIWG recently had a meeting in North Carolina and are planning to hold their next meeting on June 11 in Savannah, Georgia. STIWG has set a policy for communicating on a regular basis with NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS). STIWG is reviewing contract submissions for the Wallops Island back-up that is to be located at the USGS facility in Sioux Falls South Dakota.

## **10. Proposed Hydrologic GIS Applications Working Group**

William Merkel gave an update on the work to establish a Hydrologic GIS Applications Working Group. The potential overlap of this proposed working group with the Subcommittee on Spatial Water Data was investigated and there are no significant areas of overlap. There are two areas, however, for coordination and to promote the coordination, a member of the working group would attend the Subcommittee on Spatial

Water Data meetings. The working group would be open to non-feds. A revised draft terms of reference for the working group will be sent out following this meeting by email and SOH members are to review the draft and come to the July meeting prepared to vote on the Terms of Reference.

**Action:** SOH members are to review the draft terms of reference for the Hydrologic GIS Applications Working Group when they are sent out by email following this meeting and come to the next meeting prepare to vote on the terms of reference.

## **11. Current Events within Hydrologic Communities**

- National Academy's Disasters Roundtable” by Gene Stallings  
On March 28, 2007, Gene Stallings represented the National Hydrologic Warning Council (NHWC) at the 19<sup>th</sup> Disasters Roundtable Workshop. The Workshop was titled ”Protecting Lives and Property at Our Coastlines”. Approximately 100 participants attended the Workshop held at the National Academies Keck Center in Washington, D.C. The aim of the Workshop was to facilitate and enhance communication and the exchange of ideas among scientists, practitioners, and policy-makers concerned with important issues related to natural, technological, and other disasters. Roundtables are convened three times a year. The quality and in-depth knowledge of the speakers at the Disasters Roundtables on specific topics is fantastic. Future topics are developed by the Disasters Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. William Hooke. Since announcement on the upcoming Workshops is not widely available, Mr. Stallings agreed to keep the SOH informed of the topics and time of the Workshops. He pointed out that the most interesting statistic that he heard at the Coastlines Workshop was that a repeat of the Great Miami Hurricane of 1928 would approach \$80 billion at today’s price levels

## **12. Announcements and Q&A on Business Reports from Member Organizations**

American Forests – Don Woodward  
Nothing to report

FERC – Sam Lin  
FERC plans to ask dam owners to organize their own dam safety programs to improve their dependence on their consultants’ and regulator’s standpoint and/or opinions on dam safety issues. In late January FERC met with the Silver Lake dam owner, Wisconsin Public Service (WPS) in Washington, DC about their Owner’s Dam Safety Program (ODSP). The activation of the fuse plug spillway at Silver Lake Reservoir in Michigan due to a flood event resulted in release of the reservoir on May 14, 2003. FERC requested the meeting after observing a level of ineffectiveness in their oversight of their dam safety program. WPS prepared to propose some revisions to how they are managing their dam safety program.

Bureau of Reclamation – Don Frevert

The Bureau of Reclamation has issued its mid-term report on the "Managing for Excellence" Initiative. The report can be viewed at:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/excellence/Midterm%20report.pdf> and additional information is available through the general Management for Excellence website at:  
<http://www.usbr.gov/excellence/>

National Weather Service – Tom Graziano  
Nothing to report

Federal Highways Administration – Joe Krolak  
FHWA (and US DOT) will be moving to a new Headquarters Building during the April/May 2007 time frame. The building is located in SE Washington, near the new Baseball Stadium. FHWA folks will be hard to contact during this period.

U.S. Geological Survey – Steve Blanchard  
The USGS received its funding for FY07 which included about a 19 percent increase for the National Streamflow Information Program (streamgaging) and about a 3 percent increase in the Cooperative Water program.

Corps of Engineers – Jerry Webb  
The Corps is holding a National Infrastructure Systems Conference on June 25-29, 2007 in Detroit, MI.

Defenders of Property Rights – Martin Becker  
Nothing to report

Forest Service – Jean Thomas  
Nothing to report

Bureau of Land Management  
Nothing to report

Agricultural Research Service  
Nothing to report

Office of Surface Mining – Mary Greene  
Nothing to report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Claudia Hoeft  
Nothing to report

Nuclear Regulatory Commission – Tom Nicholson  
Nothing to report

National Hydrologic Warning Council – Gene Stallings  
The National Hydrologic Warning Council is anticipating a record turnout for its Conference and Exposition scheduled for June 11-14, 2007 at Savannah, Georgia. The Conference hotel is almost sold out and over 80 papers have been submitted. Part of my presentation will focus on the Hydrology Subcommittee, its past and present. More

information about the conference is available from the conference web page at:  
[http://nhwc.udfd.org/2007\\_conference.htm](http://nhwc.udfd.org/2007_conference.htm)

I am attending the National Academy's Disasters Roundtable this Wednesday and may have some input for the SOH

Association of State Floodplain Managers – Will Thomas  
Nothing to report

National Aeronautic and Space Administration – Ted Engman  
Nothing to report

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – David Wells  
EPA has released Version 4 of its BASINS environmental modeling system. BASINS 4.0 is an open source GIS that integrates environmental data, analysis tools, and modeling systems. Analysts can use BASINS to examine environmental information, analyze environmental systems, and build a framework for assessing management alternatives. The most significant change in BASINS 4.0 is its use of open source GIS software architecture. It also provides access to a new BASINS feature: the Windows-based Climate Assessment Tool for assessing potential impacts of changing climate on stream flows and pollutant loads. For further information, please visit our web site at <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/basins/>

Federal Emergency Management Agency – Max Yuan  
Nothing to report

SOH Newsletter – Don Frevert and Mary Greene  
Don Frevert thanked all members who have contributed to the first two editions of the newsletter. Contributions for the next newsletter are requested by close of business Friday, May 25th and the target date for release of the newsletter will be June 15th. Don expressed his appreciation to Mary Greene for her outstanding work on the newsletter. Mary will become the chief editor of the newsletter on October 1st and will need an Associate Editor to work with her. Members were encouraged to consider volunteering to become the associate editor.

### **13. Plans for Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held at the FERC building in Rm. 3M-3 on July 26, 2007 from 9:00 AM to 12 noon.

### **14. Other items**

### **Adjournment**



Attachment 1 - Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Sciences,  
Inc. Hydrologic Information System Presentation by Dr. David Maidment